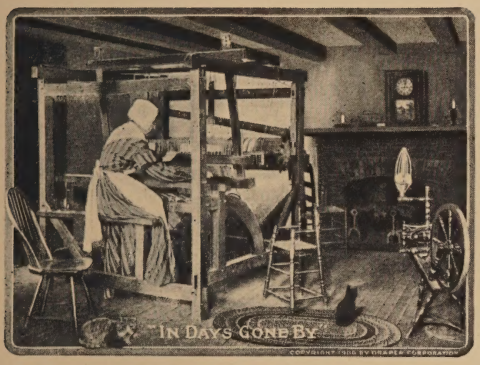
COTTON CHATS

DRAPER CORPORATION
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS



COTTON CHATS

TRADE-MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

DRAPER CORPORATION

HOPEDALE MASS.

No. 218. DECEMBER 1920.

IN OUR COTTON CHATS OF DECEMBER 1919

appeared the following:

The close of the year 1919 finds the cotton mills of this country prosperous beyond any previous period in the history of Cotton Manufacturing.

Goods are being sold at unheard of prices, and practically all of the mills are running the full legal number of hours.

Meantime the sense of proportion as to economy in costs; effectiveness of administration; and especially product per dollar's worth of investment in plant, investment in machinery, or investment in labor is obscured by the profits following the war.

DECEMBER 1920
FINDS EVERYTHING CHANGED.

Raw cotton has slumped and the woven goods are being sold on a basis that ranges between a large actual loss and a slight margin of doubtful profit; both the cotton and the labor being figured upon greatly reduced figures.

Mills which showed a handsome profit the first six months of 1920, and which carried over orders July first calling for full product for the remainder of the year, found on December thirty-first that their losses through shrinkage of values in manufactured goods had wiped out the first six months' profit and produced a deficit for the year. Cancellations of orders increased these losses and led makers and sellers of goods to query "When is an order not an order?"

With such conditions and to meet competition it is once more of vital importance to scrutinize mill equipment and to make sure that machinery is of the most improved design and construction.

Reckoning the weaving costs in a cotton mill having common looms as one-half the entire labor cost of the goods, it is manifest that in close competition the Northrop loom is a necessity, as it reduces the labor cost of weaving from one-half to three-quarters. With the reduced hours of labor per week and the increased price per hour, compared with previous conditions, the automatic features of the Northrop loom are of growing importance.

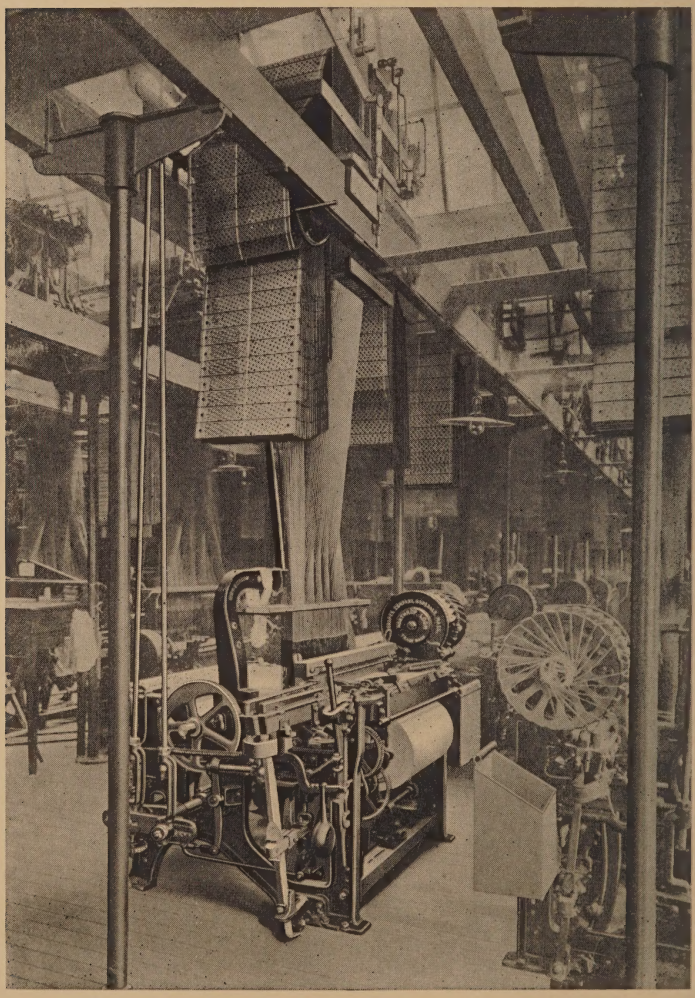
In his book on "The Cotton Manufacturing Industry of the United States," Prof. Melvin T. Copeland of Harvard University says:

> "The most significant feature in the development of looms has been the introduction of the automatic loom. Of several types of automatic loom, one stands out pre-eminently, the Northrop loom."

Quoting from a recent book, Economic Statesmanship, by J. Ellis Barker we find the following in the section devoted to labor saving machinery as applied to conditions in England:

> "It may, of course, be argued that if we introduced American labor-saving machinery we should displace 150,000 cotton workers, and that, for that reason alone, we ought not to change our manufacturing methods. That argument seems to me illogical. Experience teaches us two lessons: Firstly, that the introduction of labor-saving machinery increases the demand for manufactured articles so greatly as not to reduce, but to increase the number of workers; secondly, that a deliberate retention of antiquated methods and labor-wasting machinery inevitably brings about the ruin of industries and of the workers engaged in them.
>
> It need not be thought that the trebling of production would mean the trebling of exertion on the part of the worker. It is an

old experience that the greatest output requires the least exertion, while the smallest output calls for the greatest amount of labor. The machine, far from being an enemy of labor, is labor's best friend."



D Model Northrop Loom with Jacquard Harness Motion